



The Hour

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NEWS-KEY

Klan Grows in California	page 1
Ritual in San Joaquin Valley	" 2
Wiedemann's Fondness for Associated Farmers	" 2
Propaganda of Generoso Pope	" 2-4

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KLAN RIDES IN CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

Calls San Joaquin Valley Its "Province" — Against Catholics, Jews, Negroes and "Okies" — Nazis Watch Happily

An active membership of 7600 Klansmen is claimed for the strategic San Joaquin Valley of California. The claim is made by the local leaders of the hooded and nightgowned order who aim their campaign of hatred and terror not only against Jews, Catholics and Negroes but also against these many Americans who happen to be migratory workers.

The rich orchards and fields of San Joaquin Valley need thousands of short-term hired hands. These men and their families come here from the destitute regions of Oklahoma and Arkansas, and are made even more destitute and desperate by the tactics of California's large landowners of the feudal manner represented so strikingly in their chief organization, the Associated Farmers. The plight of these "Okies" and "Arkies" was powerfully called to the world's attention by John Steinbeck in his great novel, Grapes of Wrath. To counteract the effect of the novel, the Associated Farmers started a wide campaign of reactionary propaganda and other measures. In this, the organization had the aid and applause of many other fascistically inclined elements. Even in far-off Berlin, Der Fuehrer duly noted the important feudal character of large landownership of California, and these days it is no secret in San Francisco that he sent his friend and henchman Captain Wiedemann as Consul-General to this region precisely because he hoped for a welcome to Fritz from the "gentlemen-farmers" of the Golden State.

Klan Helps Associated Farmers

Officially, the Associated Farmers have no connection whatever with the Ku Klux Klan, but again it is no secret in California that the night-riders have planned their most recent campaign as a gesture of assistance and comfort to the exploiters of the Okies and to the haters of those who would help these migrants.

The center of the new Klan activity is in Visalia, Tulare County, but other branches are known to exist also in Porterville, Fresno, Bakersfield, Dinuba, Sanger and Selma. "Province" is the term applied by the Klan to the San Joaquin Valley area, and the head of

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the "province" is called "Titum." Gatherings and cross-burnings take place along the St. Johns River north of Visalia. The order to unmask, issued from the Klan's national headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, is being obeyed by the California members, but rather reluctantly. They still conceal or turn aside their faces when local press photographers snap their pictures. As before, they refuse to divulge names or addresses of their enrollees. While cross-burnings remain more or less public, initiations of new members are conducted in rigid secrecy, "so that outsiders wouldn't learn our ritual," the Klansmen explain.

Leaflets and Program

In various towns of the Valley numerous leaflets have recently been distributed by the Klan's agents. One leaflet, for instance, has the drawing of a hooded and gowned Klansman on horseback carrying a fiery cross. The reverse side of the leaflet reveals this printed message:

"We have met many people who are neutral on the Klan question -- afraid to take sides -- just waiting for the thing to get popular. ... If you can't enlist with real, red-blooded Americans, then line up with the spineless creatures and crooks, so you can be counted and people may know what you are. ... The Klan rides again and will not dismount until we have broken the strangle-hold. ... The Klan insists on law enforcement."

To this, a former Titum of San Joaquin's Klan added a significant public statement, "Anyone who is not for us is against us." Other spokesmen for Central California's nightshirts announced that there was "no truth" in the frequent reports of the Klan's hatred for Jews, Negroes and Catholics. However, when these spokesmen were asked whether a Jew, Negro or Catholic would be accepted as the Klan's member, the answer was a categoric "No."

Persons acquainted with the inner routine of Captain Wiedemann's office state that the Nazi Consulate-General in San Francisco follows the activities of the Associated Farmers and the Klan with much interest and ill-concealed sympathy. Voluminous reports on this and other facets of California's domestic affairs are sent to Berlin with methodic regularity.

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GENEROSO POPE'S NEWSPAPERS SPREAD FASCIST PROPAGANDA IN AMERICA

Publisher Speaks of "Americanism" But Cooperates With Il Duce in Rome and Italian Consuls in U. S.

The strange activities of Mr. Generoso Pope, publisher of two Italian dailies in New York, Il Progresso Italo-American and Il Corriere d'America, may well merit a thoughtful study. In his public statements made in English for general American consumption Mr. Pope frequently declares that his papers are American papers and that they aim to inspire their readers with "undivided loyalty" to America. Yet, these very same newspapers constantly reprint editorials written in Italy under the guidance of the Fascist Ministry of Propaganda. They print news emanating from the governmental sources in Rome, but do not mention those sources. Such news dispatches are

cabled to New York at special reduced rates.

Il Duce Considers Them His Own

Mr. Pope's two newspapers are considered Italian papers by the Italian government: Italian laws forbid Italian subjects to work as correspondents of foreign papers, yet the Rome office of Mr. Pope's papers is staffed with Italian subjects. Mussolini is well pleased with these two "American" organs.

Mr. Pope pretends to work through his newspapers for an ideal relationship between Italy and the United States, but while United States politics are often criticized in his columns, Fascism and its policies are always praised. If a question arises showing the incompatibility of the two systems, Fascism and Democracy, Mr. Pope's writers always take the fascistic side. They often criticize the American press for its dislike of Fascism, but they have never taken issue with the Fascist press for its most vulgar attacks on the United States and its people. They never doubt the allegiance of Americans of Italian descent to Mussolini and his Fascism. On the other hand, individuals and associations of the Italian colony known for their anti-fascistic views and activities are ignored or insulted.

The changes of the Fascist policy, no matter how irrational, have always been followed and justified by Mr. Pope's twin papers. Indeed, from this point of view, there is no difference whatsoever between these two papers in New York and the papers printed in Italy under the thumb of Il Duce's Ministry of Propaganda. Very often a column appears in Mr. Pope's papers entitled "News of the Empire." Articles of Italian origin are frequently run on the same subject of the Empire. We may add that the Empire is Ethiopia, whose conquest by Il Duce's legions has not been recognized by the United States Government.

Examples of Mr. Pope's Fascist Propaganda

Even a cursory glance at one of the other of Mr. Pope's papers reveals the constant and persistent character of their Fascist propaganda. From Buffalo, New York, the following item is printed in Il Progresso Italo-American:

"On Sunday night, under the sponsorship of the Dopolavoro 'Cian' for the first time in the history of the Italians of this city, the birthday of Rome will be celebrated together with the anniversary of the foundation of the Fascist Party. ... The Dopolavoro Ciano once more takes an initiative of a great patriotic value, in accordance with a program based on a deep but clear doctrine: Love of Italy conceived as something highly noble, continuously intended to uplift the spirit of the Italians abroad, to keep them always conscious of their race, to keep them always ready to jump at all the enemies of Italy. ... The two celebrations meet in a happy coincidence of historical aspects which in two different epochs created two great Empires, the Roman Empire and the Fascist Empire."

From Chicago comes this bit of news to make Fascists in America even more Fascist and loyal to Mussolini:

"Yesterday the Great Venerable of the Order of the Sons of Italy of Illinois, Mr. Spatuzza, spoke in Blue Island. It was the birthday of Rome. Mr. Spatuzza glorified the Man, who, born of the people and defender of the people, has created a new Rome. Mr. Spatuzza proudly described the formidable patrimony of Fascist power of which the new Rome boasts. ... Often, out of homage to the new Rome, Giovinezza (official Fascist hymn) was played."

On June 1 The Hour stated that much of this pro-Fascist propaganda was carried on under the guidance of Il Duce's consuls in this country. A recent item in Il Progresso Italo-American confirms this statement. Originating in Chicago, it declares: "Let us rally, all of us, around our royal imperial consulate to affirm once and forever our will to triumph." Typical is the event reported to Mr. Pope's paper from New Orleans, Louisiana, as follows:

"Received by warm demonstrations of esteem and devotion as well as with the singing of war songs, the illustrious Marchese Chiavari, Royal Consul, guest of our gallant legionnaires composing this section of war veterans, took part in the meeting of last week. The meeting took place in a bit of Italy abroad, in the seat of our consulate, kindly offered by the worthy representative of our government. The president warmly thanked the Royal Consul for the continuous help, advice and guidance so affectionately given to war veterans. ... The Consul said that the Italian war veterans must, first of all, feel how necessary it is today to be strongly united and vigilant, ready to answer to the call of the first Soldier of Italy, our august sovereign the King-Emperor, also to the call of the Man who brought the Fortune of Italy back to the glorious paths of the Legions of Caesar, of Il Duce, Founder of the New Roman Empire."

Political Adjustments and Powerful Connections

Very recently the policy of Mr. Pope's papers has been undergoing certain interesting modifications. The ideology of Fascism is treated with less open enthusiasm than before. Fewer columns are devoted to the praise of Il Duce and of the "New Roman Empire." However, these fascistic journals have not reformed and overnight become democratic. Mr. Pope seems merely to be adjusting his sails to new political winds. In this country at present it is inadvisable to express too openly Fascist sympathies, especially if one wishes to remain influential. The wealthy Mr. Pope (among his various and considerable assets is the large Colonial Sand and Stone Company, of which he is president) has to date been very influential in American affairs. As a member of the Democratic National Committee and a close associate of Jim Farley, as a former guest at the White House itself, Mr. Generoso Pope has important connections he wishes to retain. Certain "concessions" to Democracy no doubt seem to him of immediate political expediency. Nor is Mr. Pope's political adaptability limited to maneuvering between Fascism and Democracy. The newspapers of this Democratic National Committeeman are devoting increasing space to the Republican candidate, Wendell Willkie. Mr. Pope wants to be sure that, no matter who loses, he wins; he places bets on all the teams.